OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 04-24-2025 BY [redacted] ADC

Tolson
Felt
Basen
Mohr
Bishop
Miller, E.S.
Callahan
Casper
Conrad
Dalbey
Cleveland
Ponder
Bates
Waikart
Walters
Soyars
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

TO : [redacted]

DATE: 1/4/72

FROM : [redacted]

SUBJECT: SALT LEK
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE (SIO)

Memorandum [redacted] 12/9/71 captioned as above set out information furnished in strict confidence by G. Marvin Gentile, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Security, U.S. Department of State to the effect that administrative action was being initiated against [redacted] in this case. It was pointed out that Department of Defense on orders from the White House was in the process of terminating Dr. William R. Van Cleave as a Consultant. Director instructed when time propitious and sources could be protected Assistant Attorney General Mardian be advised of above action since he has been griping about our lack of interest in this investigation.

On 1/3/72 on his 1st day back from a western trip with the Attorney General, I contacted Mr. Mardian and advised him as follows:

We have previously developed rumors circulating at the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency indicating 2 persons had been identified as having been implicated in the leak of SALT information. One person was described as a mid-level employee at State and the other as a high-level official at another agency.

[redacted] and Van Cleave fit the above descriptions and both were in contact with Beecher during period immediately prior to appearance of Beecher article and both had been carefully investigated by the FBI.

It is understood the State Department has been instructed to institute administrative action against [redacted] Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State. Action taken was probably as result of [redacted] indiscretions in talking. Dr. William R. Van Cleave is in process of being terminated as a Consultant by Department of Defense based on orders from White House. Action apparently flowed directly from indications of his involvement in SALT leak.

Mardian said he knew that "they over at the White House" were taking some action in this matter but apparently did not want to cut the Department in on the "whole story" and he therefore was not getting involved in the situation. [redacted]

Mardian said he appreciated our furnishing this information to him and realizes its strictly confidential nature.

ACTION:

None. For information.

ESM:mls (4)
1- [redacted]
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6 JAN 14 1972

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SPEC. INV. OFFICE

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1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]

TO : [redacted]

DATE: 12/9/71

FROM : [redacted]

1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]

SUBJECT: SALT LEK
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE (SIO)

1 - [redacted]

Memorandum advises of administrative action being initiated against [redacted] in this case, at the Department of State.

This investigation involves the unauthorized disclosure of classified information concerning Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) in the 7/23/71 article by William Beecher which appeared in "The New York Times." The Assistant Attorney General - Internal Security Division requested complete investigation by letter 7/30/71.

G. Marvin Gentile, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Security, United States Department of State (USDS), furnished the following information to our Washington Field Office in strict confidence, requesting that his identity not be revealed as the source, and further, desiring that the information be suitably paraphrased if disseminated further. According to Mr. Gentile, William B. Macomber, Deputy Undersecretary for Administration, USDS, recently received a telephone call from an unknown individual at The White House who instructed that USDS take administrative action against [redacted] Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs, USDS, who was interviewed in connection with this investigation. Mr. Gentile did not know the basis for this action but felt it was due to [redacted] naivete and his indiscretions in [redacted] is a foreign service reserve officer who would normally be appointed for a five-year period but the appointment can be terminated upon 30 days notice from either party. Disciplinary action is under consideration by USDS; however, further details are unknown to Mr. Gentile. He commented that if [redacted] were questioned concerning this matter, he would undoubtedly refer the interviewer to The White House.

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REC-58

As pointed out in memorandum of 12/7/71, Dr. William R. Van Cleave is in the process of being terminated as a Consultant by the Department of Defense based on orders from The White House. Van Cleave's [redacted]

HJM:bjp
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67 JAN 14 1972

SPEC. INV. OFFICE

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[redacted] READING ROOM
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REC'D E.S. MILLER
FBI-JUSTICE

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REC'D-ROSEN
FBI

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F.B.I.

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RECEIVED
LEGAL COUNSEL
FBI

RECEIVED-TOLSON
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MAIL ROOM
FBI

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[redacted]

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ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 04-24-2025 BY [redacted] ADC

The Attorney General

[redacted]

Director, FBI

January 20, 1972

1 - [redacted] b3 b6 b7C b7E

UNKNOWN SUBJECT; Unauthorized Disclosure of Information Pertaining to Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) Appearing in "The New York Times" Article, Friday, July 23, 1971, by William Beecher

[redacted]

Investigation in this case was instituted upon request of the Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, contained in his letter of July 30, 1971. We have completed our investigation, including interviews of logical persons having access to SALT information with the possible exceptions of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense. Investigative reports containing the results of our investigation have been furnished to the Department.

The Bureau has recently been furnished information in strict confidence revealing that based on the investigation in this case, administrative action is being instituted against [redacted] Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs, United States Department of State, and Dr. William R. Van Cleave, a Consultant at the Department of Defense who was formerly Special Assistant for SALT to the Assistant Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs. Information was developed that security procedures relating to the handling of classified documents, particularly those bearing a ~~"Top Secret"~~ classification, have been strengthened. Persons interviewed have revealed statements by Beecher to the effect that this investigation has hurt him and his sources have "dried up." b6 b7C

MAILED 2
JAN 20 1972
FBI

On January 12, 1972, Beecher was contacted in an effort to interview him regarding his article of July 23, 1971. Beecher stated that he would have to speak with [redacted] Washington bureau chief of "The New York Times," prior to responding to the request for interview. Beecher subsequently contacted our Washington Field Office and stated that he must respectfully decline to be interviewed, explaining

[redacted] b3 b6 b7C b7E

HJM:bsf
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SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

MAIL ROOM [ ] TELETYPE UNIT [ ]

JAN 26 1972

Memorandum to [redacted]
RE: SALT LEK
[redacted]

termination reportedly flowed directly from indications of his involvement in the leak of classified SALT information. We previously developed rumors circulating at the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency indicating that two persons had been identified as having been implicated in the leak of SALT information. One person was described as a mid-level employee at the State Department and the other as a high-level official at another agency. Van Cleave and [redacted] fit the above descriptions and as pointed out previously, both were in contact with Beecher during the period immediately prior to the appearance of his article, were fully conversant concerning SALT negotiations and were prime suspects in this matter. They both denied furnishing classified information to Beecher; however, [redacted] acknowledged meeting with him three times during the pertinent period and also acknowledged briefing two aides in the office of Senator Henry M. Jackson, State of Washington, concerning SALT.

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In addition to the aforementioned information, Mr. Gentile commented that he was pleased with the manner in which this investigation had been carried out at USDS by the Bureau and the overall effect it had upon security at USDS. He stated it has resulted in a strengthening of security there through restricting the use of Xerox machines and revising the method of handling classified, especially ~~"Top Secret,"~~ documents. Mr. Gentile went on to say that various Bureau heads at USDS have issued verbal instructions regarding security and individuals have tightened their security practices.

ACTION:

Our Washington Field Office is following this matter with the State Department and is actively pursuing investigation which will lead to the interview of William Beecher.

This matter is being followed closely and you will be kept advised.

WHS EM

When it is propitious, which must protect our confidential informant who has been speaking about our lack of interest in this know about it. N

D.J.P. SP/WRW